

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 H-01 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15

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AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 02660

E.O.11652:GDS

TAGS:ENRG, EALR, UR

SUBJECT: QUESTIONS RAISED BY DIFFERING OIL PRODUCTION
REPORTS

REF: (A) MOSCOW 2190, (B) STATE 43351,(NOTAL), (C) 77

MOSCOW 17976

1. ARUSHANOV USED ONLY THE ONE FIGURE, 543 MMT, FOR 1977
OIL PRODUCTION DURING FEBRUARY 7 MEETING, AND HE MADE NO
REFERENCE TO ANY OTHER. IT IS ALMOST INCONCEIVABLE THAT HE
WAS NOT AWARE OF THE OFFICIAL 546 MMT FIGURE BECAUSE IT
WAS PUBLISHED IN THE CENTRAL PRESS ON JANUARY 28. NEVER-
THELESS, HE WAS NOT CROSS-QUESTIONED ON THE POINT SO WE
CANNOT BE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN HE WAS AWARE OF THE DISCREP-
ANCY. COMOFF NOTES THAT ARUSHANOV DID NOT APPEAR TO BE
USING THE FIGURE FOR THE FIRST TIME. IT WAS SAID FIRST IN
RUSSIAN, TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH AND CONFIRMED BY COMOFF.
AT NO POINT DID ARUSHANOV OR THE INTERPRETER APPEAR TO
THINK TWICE ABOUT IT.

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2. RE REF B, PARA 3. WE HAVE NO OTHER INFORMATION THAT
WOULD PROVIDE BASIS FOR INTELLIGENT CONJECTURE.

3. AS FOR OTHER FIGURES DOE SECRETARY O'LEARY WAS TOLD IN
EARLY DECEMBER BY PETROLEUM DEPUTY MINISTER ZHDANOV THAT
1977 OIL PRODUCTION WOULD "REACH 540 MILLION TONS" (REF C,

PARA 3B). WE HAVE NOT HEARD OTHER FIGURES THAN 546 OR 543
CITED DURING 1978. (AS NOTED IN REF A, FIGURE OF 543
WOULD BE MOST CONSISTENT WITH 11 MONTH 1977 FIGURE OF 499).
WE WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO INQUIRE AS APPROPRIATE
INTO THE QUESTION OF VARYING FIGURES FOR OIL PRODUCTION;
HOWEVER, WE CANNOT BE SANGUINE ABOUT OUR CHANCES FOR
OPPORTUNITIES TO SEE KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICIALS. FEW OFFICI-
ALS WHOM WE MEET WOULD BE IN BETTER POSITION TO GIVE US
RELIABLE OIL PRODUCTION STATISTICS THAN ARUSHANOV.
4. IN VIEW OF COMMENTS IN REF (B) PARA 5, EMBASSY WOULD
APPRECIATE RECEIVING PERIODIC RUN-DOWNS OF NATIONAL AND
REGIONAL GOALS AND DATA THAT WASHINGTON AGENCIES HAVE
CULLED TOGETHER. IF ACCOMPANIED BY CITATIONS OF
UNCLASSIFIED SOURCES THESE MIGHT PROVIDE BASIS FOR FURTHER
INQUIRIES HERE. MATLOCK

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NNN

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